

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A lancet unit for supplying a lancet to and removing the lancet from a lancing apparatus which includes a housing having a front end formed with an opening and a movable member provided in the housing reciprocally movably, the housing and the movable member forming no part of the lancet unit, the lancet unit comprising:

a case provided separately from and temporarily attached to the housing of the lancing apparatus at the time of supplying the lancet to and removing the lancet from the lancing apparatus, the case forming no part of the lancing apparatus;

a support member provided in the case for removably supporting the lancet within the case, the support member forming no part of the lancing apparatus; and

engagement means provided on the support member within the case for removing the lancet from the lancing apparatus, the engagement means forming no part of the lancing apparatus;

wherein the lancet is supplied from the support member to the movable member when the case is attached to the housing in the first state, the lancet including an engagement surface which is oriented toward a rear side of the housing when the lancet is mounted to the movable member; and

wherein the engagement means is inserted into the housing of the lancing apparatus through the opening for engagement with the engagement surface of the lancet for subsequent removal of the lancet from the movable member of the lancing apparatus when the case is attached to the housing of the lancing apparatus in a second state.

2. (Previously Presented) The lancet unit according to claim 1, wherein the lancet includes a needle, and a body supporting the needle.

3. (Previously Presented) The lancet unit according to claim 2, wherein the body has an outer circumferential surface formed with a stepped portion comprising a recess or a projection,

the engagement surface being provided by the stepped portion.

4. (Previously Presented) The lancet unit according to claim 3, wherein the engagement means includes at least one engagement projection extending in a first direction in which the needle of the lancet extends and having a front end formed with a pawl projecting in a second direction crossing the first direction.
5. (Previously Presented) The lancet unit according to claim 4, wherein the engagement means includes a plurality of engagement projections, and wherein the engagement projections are engageable with the engagement surface in such a manner as to clip the lancet when the case is attached to the housing of the lancing apparatus in the second state.
6. (Previously Presented) The lancet unit according to claim 5, wherein the stepped portion of the body comprises a flange;
wherein pawls of the engagement projections are spaced from each other by a distance which is smaller than an outer diameter or a width of the stepped portion; and
wherein, when the engagement projections are inserted into the housing in the second state, each of the engagement projections resiliently deforms in the second direction due to contact with the stepped portion so that each of the pawls passes over the stepped portion.
7. (Previously Presented) The lancet unit according to claim 2, wherein the support member includes a cap for covering the needle of the lancet and removably supporting the lancet.
8. (Previously Presented) The lancet unit according to claim 7, wherein a boundary portion between the body and the cap has a structure which is more liable to receive stress than other portions of the body and the cap.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously Presented) The lancet unit according to claim 2, further comprising an analytical part provided separately from the lancet and additional engagement means both

provided in the case;

wherein the analytical part is removably supported by the support member so that the analytical part can be mounted at a predetermined position in the lancing apparatus in supplying the lancet to the movable member when the case is attached to the housing of the lancing apparatus in the first state, the analytical part including an additional engagement surface which is oriented toward the rear side of the housing when the analytical part is mounted to the predetermined position; and

wherein, when the additional engagement means is inserted, through the opening, into the housing in the first state in which the analytical part is separated from the support member and mounted to the predetermined position in the lancing apparatus, the additional engagement means engages the additional engagement surface of the analytical part.

11. (Previously Presented) The lancet unit according to claim 10, wherein the additional engagement means includes an additional engagement projection extending in a first direction in which the needle of the lancet extends and having a front end formed with a pawl projecting in a second direction crossing the first direction.

12 - 13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The lancet unit according to claim 7, wherein the case includes a partition wall partitioning an interior of the case into a first and a second chambers adjoining each other in an axial direction of the housing; and

wherein the cap, the lancet and the analytical parts are arranged in the first chamber, whereas the engagement means is arranged in the second chamber.

15. (Previously Presented) The lancet unit according to claim 14, further comprising a lid for hermetically closing the first chamber.

16. (Previously Presented) The lancet unit according to claim 7, wherein the case includes a chamber for accommodating the cap, the lancet and the analytical part, and wherein the engagement means is also arranged in the chamber.

17. (Currently Amended) A lancet removal tool for removing a lancet from a movable member of a lancing apparatus, the lancing apparatus including a housing which has a front end formed with an opening and in which the movable member is arranged reciprocally movably, the housing and the movable member forming no part of the lancet removal tool, the lancet having an engagement surface oriented toward a rear side of the housing,

the lancet removal tool comprising:

a case provided separately from and temporarily attached to the housing of the lancing apparatus at the time of removing the lancet from the lancing apparatus, the case forming no part of the lancing apparatus;

a support member provided in the case, the support member forming no part of the lancing apparatus; and

engagement means provided on the support member within the case for entering the housing through the opening for engagement with the engagement surface of the lancet when the case is attached to the housing of the lancing apparatus, the engagement means pulling the lancet from the movable member out of the housing when the case is detached from the housing, the engagement means forming no part of the lancing apparatus.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The lancet removal tool according to claim 17, further comprising additional engagement means provided in the case;

wherein, when the case is slid along and fitted to the front end of the housing with an analytical part mounted to a predetermined position in the lancing apparatus, the additional engagement means enters the housing through the opening and engages an additional engagement surface of the analytical part, the additional engagement surface being oriented toward the rear side of the housing.

20 - 22. (Canceled)